Dear Parents & Guardians

As parents of young children know, Lent can seem so “heavy” in comparison to the anticipation and excitement of preparing for Christmas. What can this season of conversion and preparation “to celebrate the paschal mystery with mind and heart renewed” mean for little children?

For many of us growing up, Lent meant “giving up candy.” That wasn’t a bad way to introduce us to the notion of self-discipline, but simply giving up something for Lent, without a whole spirituality that children can enter into, can leave students dreading Lent more than looking forward to it. The first and most important help for little children is that we as adults understand Lent and enter into it ourselves with real devotion and joy. If Lent makes its way into our home and into our conversations and practices that children can see, they will naturally grow up in a culture that embraces Lent as a season of grace.

Secondly, symbols are very important. Children need a context. They need to explore and understand what we just take for granted, and sometimes forget. When we put something in a central place in our home, and call attention to it, it naturally leads children to ask “why” it is there and what it means. In their curiosity, they want to know what’s changed and what difference it makes for them.

It is important, with our family prayer to let the story of our salvation enter the imaginations of our children. Telling

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

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stories helps it all “fit together” for children, and for us. So, if we have a bowl of water in a central place in our home, it can be a wonderful “entry point” to the season of Lent for the whole family. What does this water remind us of? Our baptism. Lent is a time in which we want to be renewed in our baptism. That's why it is nice to find the children’s baptismal candles or baptismal garments. Perhaps we have photos of their baptism or even a video of it.

Helping children get back in touch with their baptism can help them understand that when the water was poured over their foreheads, or when they were immersed in the water, they were placed with Jesus for the rest of their lives. It becomes very vivid if children can be helped to act it out with a doll. We're not baptizing the doll, but our doll can help us imagine what it was like when we were baptized. Why do we use water to help us think that we are one with Jesus?

Water is so important to life; we can’t survive without it for even a few days. Water plays an important part in our story. The story of creation begins with the Spirit of God hovering over the dark waters until God said, “Let there be light!” The story of the exodus from Egypt tells how God led his people to safety and freedom through the Red Sea. When John the Baptist was baptizing people in the River Jordan, to help them turn away from sin and live a good life, Jesus came and asked to be baptized too, not because he was a sinner but because he was beginning his public life to become completely a part of our lives on this earth. And, when the centurion pierced Jesus’ side, after he died on the cross for us, blood and water flowed out as a sign of the sacraments he would give us. And, of course, there are the small fonts of water at the doors of every church, to remind us of the baptismal font in which we were baptized. So, each time we enter a church, we dip our hands in that water and sign ourselves with the cross of our salvation.

Depending upon the age of our children, we can have the older children help the younger children with Lent. A family “meeting” could be scheduled each week, in which we could say a prayer, and then plan out what each person in the family can do in the upcoming week, to help the whole family out and what the whole family could do to help the poor. For example, each child could be assigned one small “duty” to do, to help out the family this week. It could be an ordinary household chore, or it could be to draw a symbol for our Lent journey – a picture of the people crossing the Red Sea, Jesus’ baptism, his or her own baptism, one of us in the family when we are sad and when we are happy.

The most important part of Lent can be how children are helped to make this a time to practice being more loving. Children are naturally loving, but they can get into really bad habits of fighting with brothers and sisters, or being disobedient or even talking back. Lent is a great time to build in some family practices, which can also be an outstanding renewal for parents and adults in the family. Children will notice, if part of my Lenten journey is to choose to fast from my crabby-ness or busy-ness and to spend more time with them. They will notice, if we set the example of choosing to compliment others in the family more, highlighting the good things we notice in them. If our family Lenten practice is to focus on being nicer, kinder and more generous in helping each other, the children will take part in it. And, if we fail on a given day, we can quickly apologize and ask forgiveness and model penitential and reconciling behavior that is central to Lent.

Year Six Mass
I would like to sincerely thank our Year Six students and their teacher Miss Emily Fox on a most memorable Mass we celebrated this morning in the Church with our celebrant Father Tom. The Mass was a joy filled experience and I must congratulate all students on their amazing singing this morning. Saint Cecilia would have been proud in heaven today.

Shade Helpers
I would like to sincerely thank our marvellous dads who helped us once more erect our shade after the last cyclone alert. I know that I can always count on our wonderful parents to help support us in so many ways. As soon as I put the call out our fantastic dads came to the rescue. We are still trying to find ways to make the shade come down and go up easier as it is always a bit of a struggle. Thank you to Patrick Mellberg, Mark Bowin, Michael Warren, Graeme Williams and Bela Felsner. Dad’s you are awesome!

Students who arrive early to school
Students who arrive early to school by bus are asked to sit in the undercover area until 8.05am. This also applies to students in Kindy or Pre-Primary. They are not to sit in the Pre-Primary area waiting for their teachers. All students must ask to sit in the undercover area until 8.05am. If your little one rides the bus would you please ask them to sit in the undercover area.

Bus
I have been disappointed with some behaviour on the bus in the past, so this year we appointed bus monitors. I believe that the monitors help to establish order on the bus however a number of our monitors have been...
poorly dealt with by our students. With this in mind, I am presently writing a Bus Policy, based on the requirements by law that all must follow while riding on a bus anywhere in Australia. Once completed I will be sending it out to all families to read the rules and regulations for travel on a bus and I will expect you to discuss this with your children. Our monitors will be given training and I will be asking for any of our senior students who travel on the bus to help out and take a turn in being the bus monitor.

Absentee notes
When a student has been absent from school it is a requirement by law that we have a note from the parent/guardians of the student explaining the absence. I understand this can be tiresome at times but it is essential that we receive an explanation upon their return. I have asked teachers to follow up this procedure and ask for your patience and assistance in providing notes for absences.

Swimming Training
We have had an extremely successful swimming training this year with our Year Three to Year Seven students attending training each week for the past five weeks. Our students have been fantastic and have really enjoyed the experience. A special thank you goes to Miss Dee Campbell and our wonderful parents who have helped out each week. They have provided a wonderful experience for our students so thank you, Mrs Carmel Butler, Mrs Helen Rehn and Mrs Andrea Wall. Outstanding job ladies!

Yesterday saw our students from Pre Primary to Year Two come to the pool and practice for the carnival tomorrow. I must say the behaviour was fantastic and we had a wonderful time at the pool.

We have many confident swimmers in the junior grades who were delighted to join in the activities. Once again thank you to our willing parents who came and assisted on the day. You make an amazing difference in our school community.

Swimming Carnival
Staff and students are excited about the upcoming carnival which will take place tomorrow at the Gratwick Aquatic Pool. We will leave school at 8.30am by bus and arrive at the pool shortly after. Once all the students are settled we will begin the carnival. Students have been asked to wear their faction sports uniform with bathers. They may wear thongs while at the carnival and must have a school hat for protection from the sun. Students have been asked to bring their recess and lunch along if spending the day at the carnival.

Parents may purchase food and drink from the kiosk at the pool but only for themselves. Students may not buy nor have items bought for them from the kiosk.

Students in Pre Primary to Year Two will return to school once their water activities have concluded. Students may wear a rashie for protection from the sun, have plenty of water and sun block to last the day.

We hope you have a wonderful day and look forward to watching our students swim and showing great sportsmanship to each other. Thank you to Mrs Amanda Ramshaw and Mrs Bridget Tesar for coordinating the swimming carnival.

RESILIENCE
Learning to be resilient is one of those special life skills. Resilience is the ability to cope with negative events in one’s life and ‘bouncing back’ to a state of emotional well-being. Research indicates that young people who have high resilience skills have a lower likelihood of becoming depressed. They have a higher likelihood of having greater emotional wellbeing and lives that are more satisfying.

Experts are concerned that well meaning parents are smothering their children by over-protecting them. Sheltering children from disappointment does not allow them to develop life skills. Children can only learn resilience skills through experiencing some hurt; it is a part of growing up. Obviously, parents can intervene to minimise the ‘hurt’, but the nature of childhood is that you will graze your knee, be chosen second, have a friendship disagreement and not get everything you want. To develop resilience in life, unfortunately you have to experience some of these things.

Life skills start when children are preschoolers, playing, taking risks within the protection and parameters of parents in the family home. Then when children commence school through formal and informal play, children learn to interact, solve problems, show initiative and be inventive. The critical thing for parents is to let their children make mistakes or miss out and learn from the experience. Resilience is not ‘caught’, but has to be ‘taught’. By careful conversations both at home and school, children can learn to ‘bounce back’ after disappointments and develop a healthy attitude to life’s challenges and opportunities.

“Experience is not what happens to you; it’s what you do with what happens to you.”

God Bless

Paula MacKenzie
Principal
**WEkEND MASS TIMES**

**ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH**
Saturday 7.15pm  
Sunday 10.00am

**ST CECILIA’S PARISH**
Saturday 6:00pm  
Sunday 8.30am  
Mon-Fri 8.00am Morning Prayer & Mass

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**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Annunciation of Our Lord**

Tomorrow 25 March, is the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord. This is the time when the Angel Gabriel came to the Blessed Virgin Mary and told her of God’s plan for her – to be the mother of Our Lord, Jesus. At first Mary was frightened. Mary was a very humble girl, strong in faith, so she listened to what the Angel of God had come to tell her. Despite her situation (Mary was engaged to Joseph) she immediately agreed to be the mother of Our Lord. This took a lot of faith and courage. At the time, it was improper for Mary to be intimate with her fiancé until she was married, and even more scandalous for her to be carrying someone else’s child. Mary could have been severely punished by her community for her actions.

Thankfully Mary was strong in faith, as well as character, and accepted God’s offer. Joseph, Mary’s fiancé, struggled with the situation at first however, he too was visited by the Angel of God, who told him not to be afraid, but to accept that Mary was with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph was an honourable man, so he followed through with his plan to marry Mary. Joseph is known as the ‘foster father’ of Jesus and the patron saint of families.

The Angelus is an ancient prayer celebrating the Angel Gabriel’s Annunciation of the Lord, to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Traditionally The Angelus is recited at 6am, noon and 6pm, marked by the ringing of church bells (which were known as the Angelus bells).

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**Mass Today**

Today we celebrated the feast of the Annunciation of Our Lord as a whole school. Special thanks to Miss Fox and the Year Sixes for their preparation of the liturgy today – you were fabulous!

As always we are grateful to Father Tom for celebrating the Eucharist with us – we appreciate the time and effort you put into sharing these experiences with us and endeavouring to make these experiences both meaningful and at a level the children can understand.

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**Meals for our community**

Sometimes families within our school and parish communities face times of difficulty. This may be due to the loss of a loved one, a parent going into hospital or a variety of other reasons. At this time, we try to support these families. One of the ways which we can best offer support is providing meals. Containers can be collected from the office. Please supply a list of ingredients for the meal you have provided and return it to the school office. All meals received are greatly appreciated. See return slip on the next page.

Miss Dee Campbell  
Assistant Principal Religious Education

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**GENERAL CAMPUS NEWS**

**SCHOOL FEES**

Semester One School Fees were posted on Friday 18 March 2011. If you have not received your account please contact the office. School fees for Semester One are due by Friday 01 April 2011.

**BOARD NOMINATION**

The St. Cecilia’s School Board would like to sincerely thank Claire Smith for her valuable contribution. Claire was a member of the School Board from 10 August 2010. Her presence on the Board was an asset to the running of the school. Recently Claire and her family, Andrew, Ella and Max moved to Karratha to progress other opportunities. This leaves a vacancy on the School Board.

If you are interested, or know someone that may be interested, in being a board member please complete, or have them complete, the attached nomination form.

Please return the form to the office by 5 April for consideration at the next board meeting which will be held on 12 April.

If you would like any information on the role of a board member please call Trish Bourke, Chairperson, to discuss on 0409 089 899.
MERIT AWARDS
10 March 2011
PP: Henry Connor, Joice Damian
Kiahni Lewis, Mackenzie Lowe
Max Moore
Yr 1: Toby Hunter, Ella McGrath
Jack Turner
Yr 2: Farzan Devlaliwalla, Natasha Greipel
Yr 3: Alex Britcliffe, Angelique Leopardi
Yr 4: Skye Akerman, Courtney Healey
Yr 5: Riley Caswell, Benson Mbenjele
Yr 6: Josie Cecich, Sara McDonald
Yr 7: Brody Mellberg

17 March
PP: Brandon Lodge, Elsie Mbenjele
Yr 1: Cullen Connolly, Nicholas Merlo
Joseph Sang
Yr 2: Riley Hunter, Ben Singh
Yr 3: Jed Marsden, Lucy McGrath
Lexis Rohrlach, Clementine Wall
Yr 4: Amy Pearson, Thomas McDonald
Yr 5: Kyle Gould, Madara Herath
Yr 6: Year Six Class
Yr 7: Daniel Nassif, Kelly Zaccheus

PORT JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE
Sign On Day 3 April 2011
Cougars Oval South Hedland
10am – 2pm Boys and Girls aged 5-18 welcome
Must bring birth certificate or passport
Coaching Clinic, BBQ
All enquiries ph: 0457766482 or 91401776

BIRTHDAY WISHES
Congratulations to the following students who celebrated their birthday.

MARCH
14 JONCKHEERE, Alexander Y1
14 MENEZES, Rangi Y6
15 NAKHOUL, Rangi Y6
15 CECICH, Caely Y4
16 LEOPARDI, Isabella Y1
18 PEAGAM, Joshua Y4
20 TUCKER, Rani Y4
22 QUICK, Tennika Y6
23 HINCH, Ella Y5
23 HINCH, Georgia Y5
26 PALMER, Chloe Y6
27 BURTON, Nikita Y3
27 SINGLETON, Jasmine Y3

COMMUNITY NEWS
TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER
Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July for their 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, and the Scandinavian countries will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

COMMUNITY MEAL DONATIONS
I, _______________________________, would like to donate meals for the community.
Please return this slip to the front office and meal containers will be sent home with your child
Signed: ______________________________

Nomination for the School Board of St Cecilia’s Catholic Primary School
I, _______________________________, would like to nominate for a position on the School Board. Please return this slip by 5 April.
Signed: ______________________________
Kindergarten

Our Class

The Kindergarten students have settled into school. We have learnt new things, tried new activities and made new friends. Here is a snapshot of our journey.

Sharing

Investigating

Full and empty

Quiet reading
Taking turns painting each other

Games and rules

Painting

Investigating

Role play

Sharing

Creating

Play dough

Sorting

Painting and rules

Games and rules
EASTER RAFFLE DRAW
Thursday 14 April

A BIG THANK YOU!!
to all parents that have already donated Easter Eggs.

- There is a collection box at the front office. Collections will be taken until Wednesday 13th morning. The more eggs we get the more PRIZES we will have!!!
- There will be several individual raffles for each class – maximising your child’s chance of winning!!
- 15 tickets per family will be sent home next Wednesday 30th March
- Tickets will sell for $1 each or 3 for $2.
- Please return all tickets and money to the front office.
- More tickets will be available from the front office if required.
- Tickets will also be on sale before school in the undercover area on Monday 11th, Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th April.
- The draws will take place at the assembly on Thursday 14th April.

NB:

COMING IN TERM 2
- Free Mother’s Day Raffle in week 2
- Book Fair and Biggest Morning Tea in week 4
- Lap-a-thon in week 6
- Disco in week 9
- Photo Competition entries open in week 9!

P & F Meetings

Next meeting
Monday 11th April
8:45am in the staff room.

First meeting for Term 2
Monday 16th May
7:00pm in the staff room.

If you would like to be involved in the P&F please come along to our next meeting.

St Patrick’s Day, Thursday March 17th
Thank You to all the parents who so generously donated green cupcakes for our St Patrick’s Day Celebration. The cupcakes were once again a huge success and were enjoyed by all the children.